

## **Minutes of the Finance Committee**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2004**

Chair Haukohl called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

**Present:** Supervisors Pat Haukohl (Chair), Bonnie Morris, Genia Bruce, Joe Griffin, and Jim Behrend. Joe Marchese arrived at 8:47 a.m. and left at 11:26 am. **Absent:** Don Broesch

**Also Present:** Legislative Policy Advisor Mark Mader, Legislative Policy Advisor Dave Krahn, Budget Specialist Linda Witkowski; Senior Vice President Dave DeYoung of Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley & Co.; Senior Financial Analyst Mike Baniel, Employment Services Manager Sue Zastrow, Administrative Services Manager Russ Kutz, Senior Financial Analyst Andy Thelke, Land Information Systems Coordinator Don Dittmar, and Parks & Land Use Director Dale Shaver.

### **Approve Minutes of January 7, 2004 (2 sets)**

**MOTION:** Morris moved, second by Bruce to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 7. Motion carried 5-0.

**MOTION:** Griffin moved, second by Behrend to approve the joint meeting minutes of January 7. Motion carried 5-0.

Marchese arrived at 8:47 a.m.

### **Schedule Next Meeting Dates**

Haukohl said the next committee meeting was scheduled for February 4. Griffin advised he would not be able to attend that meeting.

### **Announcements**

Haukohl announced that the January 27 County Board meeting has been canceled.

### **Correspondence**

Revised copies of the committee's annual reports schedule were distributed for informational purposes. Haukohl advised of a memo she received from Administration Director Norm Cummings and staff regarding the technology review process for 2004.

### **Ordinance 158-O-130: Authorize the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$14,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes for Capital Projects**

DeYoung distributed information on the \$14,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes Series 2004 including timetable, terms of offering, and the debt service schedule. Witkowski said the 2004 borrowing is consistent with the adopted budget. They expect to retire the 1997 series early which involves \$4.8 million. Therefore, they've had to restructure the repayment of this issue slightly. Otherwise, everything is as planned. DeYoung said an ordinance will come forward in February approving a budget amendment that appropriates the necessary funds to retire the 1997 series.

With regards to the 2004 series, bids will be opened and the interest rate will be announced and considered via ordinance at the March 9 Finance Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. and then at the County Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. DeYoung said we're only adding about \$1.8 million net to the debt load compared to about \$4 million net that was added last year. He stated they're anticipating an interest rate somewhere around 3.3% although this could change come March 9. DeYoung said we saved money by paying off the 1997 series early but we also save additional interest by paying off the issue a bit earlier.

**MOTION:** Marchese moved, second by Behrend to approve ordinance 158-O-130 and that a letter be drafted to the County Board on behalf of this committee expressing support of this issue. Motion carried 6-0.

**Fund Transfer 2003-General-2: Non-Departmental – Transfer Funds from Operating Expenses to Personnel Expenses**

Baniel discussed the fund transfer as outlined which involved transferring a total of \$15,000. Personnel expenses for unemployment are greater than originally budgeted. The County is mainly incurring unemployment costs for seasonal employees, primarily in the Parks & Land Use Department. Operating expenses are projected to be under budget, partially because Business Continuity costs are lower than budgeted. Baniel noted this is the highest unemployment cost in six years.

**MOTION:** Marchese moved, second by Behrend to approve fund transfer 2003-General-2, Non-Departmental. Motion carried 6-0.

**Review Finance Committee Future Agenda Items List**

The committee reviewed and revised their future agenda items list.

**Fund Transfer 2003-360-03: Health & Human Services Department – Transfer Funds from Personnel Costs (Mental Health Center) to Personnel Costs (Human Services Fund)**

Kutz discussed this fund transfer as outlined which involved transferring \$25,000. The 2003 Personnel Costs budget appropriation unit for the Mental Health Center is estimated to be under budget. This transfer is due to a 0.50 FTE Account Clerk I position, budgeted for in the Mental Health Center Fund 350, being directly charged to Health & Human Services Fund 150. This is the result of the development of the State's Random Moment Time Study being used to document staff administrative activities and related costs. Haukohl noted this is basically a bookkeeping change.

**MOTION:** Behrend moved, second by Griffin to approve fund transfer 2003-360-3, Health & Human Services Department. Motion carried 6-0.

**Discuss Land Information Pricing and Security Policies**

Dittmar distributed information on the County's Internet access policy, the interactive mapping system and permit and license information (web-based), the County Data Sharing and Data Provision Agreement, and sample County Land Information Division Product order forms.

Dittmar indicated that the Land Information Program was created in 1990 by State Statutes. For every document that is recorded in the Register of Deeds, \$5 is maintained and used specifically for County land records modernization. The Land Information Plan was adopted by the County Board a few years ago. It sets up acceptable items and expenses for land modernization, e.g., creating parcel maps, air photography, the Internet site, soil mapping, and zoning. State Statutes dictates that \$1 of the \$5 be used for Internet access. Last year, the Register of Deeds generated just over \$1 million, of which, \$200,000 became available for Internet access. Dittmar said he also received a \$144,000 state grant last year.

With the funding over the years, staff have generated a significant amount of maps which are available on the Internet site. They now have complete coverage of the parcel layer, the tax layer, and topographic maps. Dittmar said we have one of the richest data sources of maps in the state right now. He went on to highlight the County's Internet Access Policy which was adopted by the County Board in 2002. Citizens can search the Internet data by tax key number and by address. It will give an owner's name but they cannot search by owner's name. Tax information on each property is also available.

Dittmar said all the information he has is public record. He's comfortable with the system's security and he has worked with Information Systems staff. They currently have three tiers of users who use the data. Anyone with Internet capabilities has access to the information. User names and passwords are given out to municipalities who can obtain some additional functionality which they use to generate mailing lists. Unlike citizens, municipalities can also search by name. They cannot, however, make any changes to the data. Under a user name and password, they are starting to build systems where a municipality can make changes via the Internet. An example is the Address Maintenance System which will be very important for the Shared Dispatch System and 911. A pilot test showed some design problems which will be resolved before the system is launched on a wider basis in about a month. There are benefits to the municipalities in exchange for them handling these changes whereby Dittmar explained this further. He noted this will not be an open site and it will be monitored.

Noncontributing data users include private citizens, engineering firms, etc., and they must pay for the data. They can purchase CD's for \$50 each and can choose among tax parcels, tax ownership, planimetric features, contour data, the digital terrain model, etc. He noted that the county can only charge for the cost of reproduction, hence the \$50 fee, and last year they generated over \$5,000. Agreements must be signed by each purchaser stating the CD will not be re-sold. Contributing data users are primarily municipalities and in return for data they provide the County, we provide them free information; basically a partnership. Complementary data users are schools and universities and they also receive free information. They must sign an agreement that the information will only be used for research and only used in their class.

### **State Legislative Update**

Krahn highlighted his report entitled "2003 State Legislation – Finance Committee" dated today. He said in the months ahead we'll be hearing a lot about AJR 55, better known as TABOR (taxpayer bill of rights), which originated in Colorado. It's a constitutional amendment bill, therefore, it needs to pass two concurrent legislatures and then go to referendum. The Republican legislature is hoping to have this coincide with the 2006 gubernatorial election.

There are all kinds of questions about TABOR and how it will impact Wisconsin. The State will be looking at both sides of this issue in the near future.

Krahn said the Senate is taking up AB 54 today and it should be signed by the Governor. We're finally seeing this one come to fruition. AB 61 is moving forward. Waukesha County recently passed a resolution naming Waukesha County as the PSAP (Public Service Answering Point). AB 133 keeps coming back and it's currently on hold. Hopefully this won't go anywhere. A substitution amendment was passed by the Assembly which is far worse than the original bill. AB 255, which we worked so hard on for so many years, was vetoed by the Governor. There is discussion about going at this again since we came very close.

Marchese left the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

AB 341 was approved yesterday by the Assembly and is something we can choose to do. We're working very hard to defeat AB 417. An attempt to compromise with the contractors failed but we will continue to fight the bill. It will probably move through the Assembly in the next few weeks but we may be more successful in the Senate. Regarding AB 547, similar federal legislation is pending and 27 states have passed their own. There was a hearing on AB 616 on January 14 and a substitute amendment has been proposed which will take counties off the hook by projecting into the future, a state pick-up of these costs. There is lots of support for this bill and actually, nobody was there opposing it. Krahn said AB 728 was tabled yesterday by the Assembly, much to his surprise, and he doesn't believe it will go anywhere. Unfortunately, SB 305 regarding TIFs was approved yesterday by the Senate and it will be signed by the Governor. Administration Director Norm Cummings was in Madison yesterday to testify in opposition of the bill but nobody was swayed. To answer Griffin's question with regards to SB 71, Krahn said he guesses it will sit in committee and not go anywhere.

**MOTION:** Behrend moved, second by Griffin to adjourn at 11:44 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph F. Griffin  
Secretary